

**V. REMARKS**

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sekine et al. (JP 200-307-0979). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sekine discloses a metal coin insertion device that has a guide groove for guiding coins into a coin insertion opening. The heights of the respective upper ends of the guide groove are formed to be lower at one side than the opposite side.

The disclosure of Sekine is based on a concept to form the right wall of the metal insertion slot to be lower than the left wall. Accordingly a skilled person would not be motivated to form the ridgelines of the right and left walls (projection parts) to be substantially equal to each other at a side adjacent the opening as recited in the amended independent claims as discussed below.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that has a front and a rear disposed opposite the front and that rests on a horizontal support surface. Claim 1 recites that the gaming machine includes a medal insertion slot having an opening for a player to insert a medal for playing a game and is fixedly connected to a frontward projection part of the gaming machine. Claim 1 recites that the medal insertion slot comprises a medal guide projection projecting in a forward direction of the gaming machine and is configured to guide the medal to the opening. Claim 1 also recites that the medal guide projection includes an inner peripheral part configured to be in contact with outer peripheral surface of the medal and a pair of projection parts disposed away from each other and projecting on top of both ends of the inner peripheral part. Additionally, claim 1 recites that a horizontal line is defined as extending parallel to the horizontal support surface and extending through and between the front and rear of the gaming machine. Furthermore, claim 1 recites that an angle between a ridgeline of one of the projection parts and a horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle between a ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line and the respective ridgelines terminate adjacent the opening at respective heights with the

respective heights being at least substantially equal to each other.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest an angle between a ridgeline of one of the projection parts and a horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle between a ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line and the respective ridgelines terminate adjacent the opening at respective heights with the respective heights being at least substantially equal to each other. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not modify the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 6, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine having a front and a rear disposed opposite the front and resting on a horizontal support surface. Claim 6 recites that the gaming machine includes a game medium insertion slot having an opening for a player to insert a game medium for playing a game and fixedly connected to a frontward projection portion of the gaming machine. Claim 6 further recites that the opening is formed so that the player can insert the game medium with both sides of the game medium substantially parallel with a front of the gaming machine, the game medium insertion slot includes a game medium guide projection projecting in a forward direction of the gaming machine and configured to guide the game medium to the opening, the game medium guide projection includes an inner peripheral part which is a circular arc in a cross section substantially parallel with the front of the gaming machine configured to be in contact with a part of an outer peripheral surface of the game medium and a pair of projection parts disposed away from each other and projecting on top of both ends of the inner peripheral part, a horizontal line is defined as extending parallel to the horizontal support surface and extending through and between the front and rear of the gaming machine. Claim 6 further recites that an angle  $\gamma$  between a ridgeline of one of the projection parts and the horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle  $\beta$  between a ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line and the

respective ridgelines terminate adjacent the opening at respective heights with the respective heights being at least substantially equal to each other.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 6 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest an angle  $\gamma$  between a ridgeline of one of the projection parts and the horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle  $\beta$  between a ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line and the respective ridgelines terminate adjacent the opening at respective heights with the respective heights being at least substantially equal to each other. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not modify the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 14, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine having a front and a rear disposed opposite the front and resting on a horizontal support surface. Claim 14 recites that the gaming machine includes a game medium insertion slot having an opening for a player to insert a game medium for playing a game and fixedly connected to a frontward projection portion of the gaming machine, wherein the game medium insertion slot comprises a game medium guide projection projecting in a forward direction of the gaming machine and configured to guide the game medium to the opening. Claim 14 also recites that the game medium guide projection includes an inner peripheral part configured to be in contact with outer peripheral surface of the game medium and first and second projection parts disposed away from each other and projecting on top of both ends of the inner peripheral part. Furthermore, claim 14 recites that a horizontal line is defined as extending parallel to the horizontal support surface and extending through and between the front and rear of the gaming machine. Claim 14 also recites that an angle  $\gamma$  between a ridgeline of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle  $\beta$  between a ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line, the first projection part has a side

surface that is curved downward along a widthwise direction of the gaming machine, an angle  $\theta_R$  between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be smaller than an angle  $\theta_L$  between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the second projection part and the horizontal line and the respective ridgelines terminate adjacent the opening at respective heights with the respective heights being at least substantially equal to each other.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 14 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest an angle  $\gamma$  between a ridgeline of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle  $\beta$  between a ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line, the first projection part has a side surface that is curved downward along a widthwise direction of the gaming machine, an angle  $\theta_R$  between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be smaller than an angle  $\theta_L$  between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the second projection part and the horizontal line and the respective ridgelines terminate adjacent the opening at respective heights with the respective heights being at least substantially equal to each other. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not modify the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 20 is directed to a gaming machine having a front and a rear disposed opposite the front and resting on a horizontal support surface. Claim 20 recites that the gaming machine includes a game medium insertion slot having an opening for a player to insert a game medium for playing a game and a frontward projection portion on which the game medium insertion slot is mounted. Claim 20 recites that the game medium insertion slot comprises a game medium guide projection projecting in a forward direction of the gaming machine and configured to guide the game medium to the opening. Claim 20 further recites that the game medium guide projection includes an

inner peripheral part configured to be in contact with outer peripheral surface of the game medium and first and second projection parts disposed away from each other and projecting on top of both ends of the inner peripheral part.

Furthermore, claim 20 recites that the first projection part is disposed at a right side to the player with respect to the second projection part, a horizontal line is defined as extending parallel to the horizontal support surface and extending through and between the front and rear of the gaming machine, an angle  $\gamma$  between a ridgeline of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be larger than an angle  $\beta$  between a ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line, a height of the ridgeline of the first projection part at an end near to the opening is configured to be same with a height of the ridgeline of the second projection part at an end near to the opening, the first projection part has a side surface that is curved downward along a widthwise direction of the gaming machine, the second projection part has a side surface that is curved downward along the widthwise direction, the side surface of the first projection part has a part having a curvature smaller than that of the side surface of the second projection part in a plane perpendicular to the horizontal line and parallel to the widthwise direction, an angle  $\theta_R$  between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be smaller than an angle  $\theta_L$  between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the second projection part and the horizontal line and an angle  $\alpha$  between an upper surface of the frontward projection portion and the horizontal line is configured to be substantially same with the angle  $\beta$  between the ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 20. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest an angle  $\gamma$  between a ridgeline of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be larger than an angle  $\beta$  between a ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line, a height of the ridgeline of the first projection part at an end near to the opening is configured to be same with a height of the ridgeline of the second projection part at an end near to the opening, the first

projection part has a side surface that is curved downward along a widthwise direction of the gaming machine, the second projection part has a side surface that is curved downward along the widthwise direction, the side surface of the first projection part has a part having a curvature smaller than that of the side surface of the second projection part in a plane perpendicular to the horizontal line and parallel to the widthwise direction, an angle  $\theta_R$  between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be smaller than an angle  $\theta_L$  between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the second projection part and the horizontal line and an angle  $\alpha$  between an upper surface of the frontward projection portion and the horizontal line is configured to be substantially same with the angle  $\beta$  between the ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not modify the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is allowable over the applied art.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner fails to establish other claimed features are shown in the applied art. By way of example only:

In claim 2, the Examiner fails to show that the angle between the ridgeline of one of the projection parts and the horizontal line is larger than the angle between the ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line.

In claim 3, the Examiner fails to show that a height of a start point of the ridgeline of one of the projection parts on a side of the opening is configured to be the same as a height of a start point of the ridgeline of the other projection part on the other projection part on a side of the opening.

In claim 4, the Examiner fails to show that an angle between an upper face of the frontward projection portion and the horizontal line is configured to be substantially equal to the angle between the ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line.

In claim 5, the Examiner fails to show that an angle between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of one of the projection parts and a bottom of the one of the projection parts is configured to be smaller than an angle between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of the other projection part and a bottom of the other projection part.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 7-13 depend from claim 6 and include all of the features of claim 6. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 6 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 15-19 depend from claim 14 and include all of the features of claim 14. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 14 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 21-25 depend from claim 20 and include all of the features of claim 20. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 20 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

Furthermore, for any instances in which the Examiner took Official Notice in the Office Action, Applicants expressly do not acquiesce to the taking of Official Notice, and

respectfully request that the Examiner provide an affidavit to support the Official Notice taken in the next Office Action, as required by 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2) and MPEP § 2144.03.

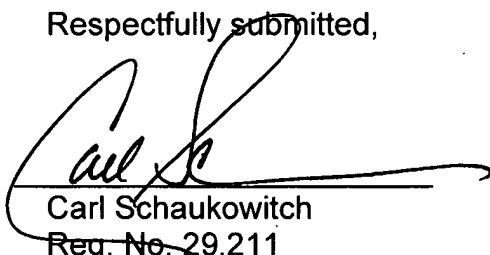
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s):       Amendment Transmittal

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